

MAURICE HOME IS DAMAGED BY FIRE

South Richmond Dwelling Practically Wrecked by Careless Use of Fireworks.

FIREMEN ESCAPE DEATH

Men on Falling Roof Scurry to Safety—Boy Scouts Save Household Effects.

Fireworks are believed to have caused the fire which completely gutted the large frame house owned and occupied by Police Justice H. A. Maurice, 1109 Perry Street, South Richmond, yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. While the outer walls remain intact, the interior is a wreck, and although much of the furniture was saved, the loss will reach more than \$2,000, which is partially covered by insurance.

The blaze started in the attic, and rapidly ate its way to the lower floors. The building is composed wholly of wood and other inflammable material, and before the arrival of the apparatus, the flames had gained considerable headway. A wide stairway proved an admirable fire escape, and the firemen, by means of which, the fire spread with astonishing rapidity to all parts of the house.

Engine Company No. 13, Captain Coss, and Truck No. 5, Captain Chas. responded to an alarm sent in after the chemical engine, which was summoned by telephone, had arrived on the scene. Ladders were used to get to the roof, and several men with high pressure hoses got quickly to work.

Narrow Escape of Firemen. The large crowd that had assembled was thrilled when the roof of the house caved in. A number of firemen, warned by the cracking timbers, hurried to safety by such a narrow margin that it was feared several were killed. A hurried count, however, showed that the firemen were safe.

Mr. Maurice, who was formerly Mayor of Manchester, and is now Justice of the Southside Police Court, was in a case in the Law and Equity Court when he received a message that his home was burning. Judge Grubb immediately ordered an adjournment, and Mr. Maurice hastened to South Richmond. His fears for the safety of his family were allayed when he found them at the home of a neighbor.

Much of the household effects were saved. The Boy Scouts of the Southside, in getting many of the lighter articles out of the burning house, and they were assisted by many of the neighbors. The fire spread, however, so rapidly that it was extremely dangerous to venture into the building.

House Was a Landmark. The house was formerly owned by

Use Vitaqua (Ve-taw-qua) Sparkling Water in high-balls. A combination of wonderfully pure Broad Rock water and carbonic acid gas, and NOTHING ELSE. No foreign adulterants to affect the flavor of your "mixings."

NO ACTION ON CLAIM

Finance Committee Wants All Members to Pass on Maurice Matter.

Because there was not present a sufficient number to reconsider the question, the Finance Committee last night deferred to the next meeting action intended to repeat the vote in back taxes recently granted to the estate of H. A. Maurice, Jr. South Richmond, reducing them from \$100 to \$200. Through the release was recommended by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Council in the form of an ordinance, and enacted into law by the signature of the Mayor, H. A. Maurice, on Dec. 18. Mr. Maurice became a willing party to reconsideration, and will not press his claim for the refund.

An unfortunate circumstance in relation to the matter is the fact that the house on the lot in question was practically destroyed by fire yesterday, and will have to be rebuilt before it will again be habitable.

NEW LICENSES

Automobile Owners Must Secure IDs by Jan. 1.

Not more than 200 automobile owners have as yet applied for their IDs. The license tag, at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, was issued yesterday. The IDs, which are numbered, and that applications were coming in at the rate of 20 a day. There are approximately 10,000 motor cars in the State, and it is estimated that the number of IDs for them to carry a Virginia license, this is the case with a number of cars owned in Washington, D. C., and Fairfax County. Failure to have the license by January 1 subjects automobile owners to a fine, each day being a separate offense.

Approves Salary Increases.

The Administrative Board approved yesterday, and recommended to the Council for the City of Richmond, the salary of the Chief Health Officer to \$2,000 a year.

STATE MAY AID NEW ARMORIES

Military Authorities Pressing Bill to Assist Small Town Companies.

Military authorities of the State are preparing to press vigorously before the coming session of the General Assembly a bill for State aid to counties and cities in the erection of armories, similar in its general terms to the plan for State aid in the erection of public high school buildings.

There are already active militia companies in Fredericksburg, Winchester, Strasburg, Staunton and Warrenton without proper places in which to store the valuable company property. A new company has recently been mustered in at Franklin, and companies are in process of formation at Big Stone Gap, Wytheville, Pulaski and Highland Springs. If all of these are formed, it will bring the State militia up to the full number of forty companies—the limit allowed by the present law. There has been some hitch over the negotiations for the Highland Springs company, and it is possible that some other section of the State desirous of forming a company may get in first.

Responsible for Property.

Under the War Department regulations, property worth more than \$5,000 is issued by the government to each company, and strict accounts are kept. The company is responsible for every bit of it, and must produce it for inspection. It is stated that the companies without adequate armories have had to pay out a considerable part of their State allowances to make good lost equipment, and so satisfy the government inspecting officers.

Adjutant-General W. W. Sale has expressed the view that satisfactory one-company armories can be erected, of fireproof material, and equipped not only to meet the military requirements, but also to furnish some little club and gymnasium accommodations for the men, for not over \$10,000. It is his plan to ask a fund of \$25,000 a year for the next two years from the State for the erection of the armories, or locally securing the money by levying an equal amount to what the State puts in. That is to say, if the State gives \$5,000, and one of the towns mentioned can, by town appropriation or local subscription, raise an equal amount, an adequate and satisfactory armory can at once be erected, and the company stores protected.

Wants Permanent Buildings. So far, buildings it is pointed out, should be preapproved of substantial character, as the military is used in time of riot or disorder as an auxiliary to the police, and the place where military stores are kept should be constructed with a view to its defense against mob violence or sudden disorder.

Efforts were made to get a meeting of the military Board to act on this matter on Saturday night, but failed. It is expected that the Governor will call a meeting soon after the holidays. General Sale said yesterday that as vigorous efforts were being made to form new companies, it was important that the War Department, which would have the effect of placing the militia in one of the regiments, would be extended. Some time ago the department ordered the three regiments in Virginia brought to full strength of twelve companies each, and that the department could not sanction a separate battalion of four companies while there were no regiments lacking companies. General Sale was opposed to losing the separate identity of the militia, and at once went to work to organize the five companies required to bring the Virginia militia to its maximum of forty companies. The Franklin company has already been mustered, and four others are in process of formation. General Sale said he had every reason to hope that the time would be extended.

Good Companies in Small Towns.

In forming the new companies, the most difficult obstacle to overcome has been lack of armory space. Suitable rooms are hard to rent, and the rent makes a deep hole in the company funds. On the other hand, the militia has usually taken a deep hold in the smaller towns, and the companies located there are among the best in the State. There is less to distract attention and prevent attendance at drill, and if supplied with armory facilities, General Sale said, he was convinced that the militia companies in the smaller towns would draw into membership the best men in town—men who could be counted on in any emergency. From reports he had received, he did not think there would be difficulty in the points indicated of raising a fund to meet the requirements of State aid, and if the sum asked for in provided, with the local aid, there could be erected ten permanent one-company armories in the next two years in many localities over the State, giving in every section an immediate rallying point in time of disorder, when the services of the military might be needed.

Marriage Licenses. Marriage licenses were issued yesterday in the Hustings Court to Robert Lennex and Mary Juliette Newbill; Herman E. Jones and Alice Baker; Edna W. Roud and Elma T. Mitchell; John Percy Green and Hannah Young Rogers; Jack London and Frances Brown; William E. Sims and Grace Thompson; and Charles H. Atkins and Ada M. Bullock.

West End Citizens Elect. At a recent meeting of the West End Citizens' Association, the following officers were elected: President, George J. Hooper; Vice President, Jack Epps; Secretary, James M. Hayes; Jr. sergeant-at-arm, J. E. Sims; and Grace Thompson, and Charles H. Atkins and Ada M. Bullock.

Fine Reduced on Plea of Guilty. W. P. Vetch, appealing from a fine of \$100 in Police Court, pleaded guilty to the charge of breaking up a street, and was fined \$25.

Vinson—Leigh. [Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Weldon N. C., December 22.—C. R. Vinson and Miss Virginia Leigh were married at 7:30 o'clock by Rev. Albert New, pastor of the parish. They left immediately after the ceremony on an extended tour.

Mrs. Vinson is a daughter of Prof. J. H. P. Leigh, of Petersburg. She has a large circle of relatives and friends.

WILL LIMIT LOANS ON LIFE POLICIES

Insurance Commissioner Button Preparing Bill for Virginia Legislature.

INSERTS SIXTY-DAY CLAUSE

Present Laws Make Possible Serious Ruins on Insurance Companies.

Limitation of the amount of demand loans by life insurance companies will be asked of the Virginia Legislature in a bill being prepared by Colonel Joseph Button, State Insurance Commissioner. Colonel Button last week attended a meeting of the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners in New York, at which the subject was discussed, and it was agreed to ask for uniform legislation on the subject from the various States. It is believed that the life insurance companies will welcome the relief that the bills will afford.

In recent years, it was pointed out, many of the life insurance companies have been issuing policies offering to policyholders the right at any time on demand to secure a loan from the company almost up to the surrender value. Such loans have no doubt proved of great benefit to the policyholders, and an effective form of investment of the company, but the fear of over-extension is gravely expressed by the commissioners.

Might Cause Serious Trouble.

For instance, if there should be a general panic throughout the country, and large numbers of small policyholders be thrown out of work, thousands might apply at once for demand loans, up to the value of their policies. To raise funds to meet such emergencies, the companies might be forced to dispose of securities at an

CHRISTMAS

The good old fashioned Christmas seems to be going out of date, the auto has supplanted the reindeer, the "SPUGS" complain about useless giving, and even snow seems not to be so plentiful nowadays. Yet, Christmas is still Christmas, only it is being observed in a different manner. We suggest a trip to New York at this time. There is no season of the year when the Metropolis has more attraction, when the stores have finer displays, or when the people themselves are more in the spirit of enjoyment. We'd like you to put up at the BRESLIN, on Broadway at 29th St.; but whether or no, we wish you a Very Merry Christmas.

Gifts That Are Sure to Please

Musie Cabinets, Fancy Rockers, Ladies' Desks, Morris Chairs, Dressing Tables, etc.

FOR THE CHILDREN.
Doll Carriages, Couches, Rockers and Desks—in fact, everything for the home.
Agents for Detroit Jewel, Monitor and Eclipse Gas Ranges and Boone Kitchen Cabinets.

FREE
A useful souvenir to every lady calling in person.
You have the advantage of our 32 years of experience.

A. J. Daffron
1436-38 Hull Street.

A Sermonette

Only seven more days left in this year of grace 1913 in which to begin a bank account.

Begin to-day, if possible, but don't let the old year pass without starting on the road to Savingville.

One of your Xmas presents may be money.

Why not deposit it in the

Broadway National Bank
Where it Will Earn You 3 Per Cent Annually.

Good Old Rye and Corn Whiskey, Virginia quality, \$2.00 gallon.
Good French or Apple Brandy, \$2.00 gallon.
Good New England Rum, \$2.00 gallon.
Good Peach Brandy, \$2.00 gallon.
Good California Sherry or Port Wine, \$2.00 gallon.

Good Sweet Catawba Wine or Blackberry, \$1.00 gallon.
Good Sweet Elderberry, 50c gallon.
Rooney Malt Whiskey, quart bottles, 50c.

Cream of Kentucky Rye Whiskey, quart bottles, \$1.00.

S. ULLMAN'S SON
1820-1822 East Main Street.



What It Takes to Please "Her" or "Him"—We Have!

Be it wife, mother, daughter or sister, husband, father, son or brother, if you knew their wish it would surely be

JEWELRY

WE SUGGEST SOME OF THESE:

CUT GLASS,
SILVERWARE,
FRIENDSHIP CIRCLES,
SCARF PINS.

WAIST SEWS,
WATCHES,
HAT PINS.

LA VALLIERES,
RINGS,
TIE CLASPS,
TOILET SETS.

AND OTHERS TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION.

Smith & Webster, Inc.
805 EAST MAIN, JEWELERS AND WATCHMAKERS.

GIVES MORE TIME TO BUILD ROAD

Street Committee Approves Franchise Extension Asked For by Rappahannock Line.

On the representation of Robert N. Polard, counsel for the company, that the Richmond and Rappahannock Railway Company had been authorized by its work of construction by untoward and unavoidable circumstances, the Street Committee yesterday afternoon recommended for adoption by the City Council an ordinance extending the time limit in which the railroad is to be completed to six years. Under the ordinance granting the railway company franchise rights for its Richmond terminal, passed on February 17, 1912, the Richmond and Rappahannock Railway Company engaged to finish the work of construction as far as Pamunkey River by February 17, 1914.

Owing to certain delays, the work cannot be completed within that time, and additional time was asked. Eighteen miles have been graded, Mr. Polard explained, rails and ties for that distance have been purchased, and the construction work is now within a mile of the river. More delays are expected, after the river has been bridged, in accordance with the franchise, and he stated that it would require an additional year to complete the road as far as Pamunkey River. The franchise was approved by the City Council on the day of its passage.

Under the motion of Joseph E. Powers, it was recommended that the ordinance approved by the City Attorney, be recommended to the City Council for adoption.

for adoption. Under the terms of the new ordinance the bond of \$50,000 for the proper completion of the work will still stand, and there will be no variation in the original plans contemplated. The new railway company purchased the Seven Pines line from the Virginia Railway and Power Company for the first part of the new railway.

At the request of property owners the committee recommended that the alley between the Boulevard and Deep Run Street and Main and Cary Streets be closed by the city at its entrance to the Boulevard, and that the contiguous property owners be allowed to inclose seven and one-half feet on either side, leaving an open space of five feet between.

Alleged Purse Snatcher.

Bristol, Va., December 22.—A well-dressed man, giving his name as Richard Stringer, and his age as twenty-nine, was arrested here tonight by Officer Heavert, charged with two attempts to snatch purses from women, which will be in effect for ten days. Stringer had \$20 in his pocket. He claims to be a son of Thomas Stringer, at Greenville, Tenn., but says his home is at Glade Springs, Va.

Railroad Man Bankrupt.

Lynchburg, Va., December 22.—Elmer R. Shewalter, a railroad man of Clifton Forge, today filed in the Federal District Court here a petition in bankruptcy, in which his liabilities are scheduled at \$58,523. The assets are said to be about \$22. The creditors are all located in Clifton Forge and Iron Gate.

Oyster Inspector Mue Here.

C. H. Mue, oyster inspector for Gloucester County, was a visitor at the office of the Auditor of Public Accounts yesterday.

Clay Street Car Change.

At the request of the Administrative Board the Virginia Railway and Power Company, beginning today, will operate Clay Street cars down Main to Eighth Street, and Clay Street cars down Main to Twenty-ninth and Broad. This change, which will be in effect for ten days or two weeks, is made necessary by sewer work in Twenty-first Street. Westbound cars on the Clay Street line will be operated as heretofore.

FINAL CLEARANCE

OF
Holiday Gifts and Books

Choice selections still available:

BRASSWARE, one-half off.
LEATHER GOODS, one-half off.
FINE PICTURES, one-half off.
XMAS CARDS AND BOOKLETS, one-half off.
JUVENILES, one-third off.
STANDARD SETS, one-third off.

ONE-FOURTH OFF on any Book in stock. Visit Annex Sale on second floor for most extraordinary values ever seen in Books and Holiday Gifts.

Store closes at 6 P. M.

Presbyterian Book Store

212-214 North Sixth Street.

Last Minute Shoppers---

Here's the gift that can be bought in a hurry. You can get it as satisfactorily on the 24th as you could a month ago.

Why not make all your gifts this Christmas SAVINGS ACCOUNTS? Give every one of your loved ones a remembrance which shows your thoughtfulness and foresight—a gift that grows more valued, that encourages thrift and makes for success.

You can start savings accounts with any amount as low as \$1. Simply deposit the amount and present the bankbook.

We allow 3% interest, compounded semiannually, and give small accounts every attention and courtesy. You could not select a better bank for your boy to save in.

Planters Nat'l Bank

Capital and Surplus \$1,800,000

Timely Xmas Opportunities In Good Clothes

An immense Woolen purchase at a big price concession of market value, due to the new tariff law soon to go into effect, is responsible for this remarkable opportunity right before Christmas.

Burk-Made Standard \$18
and \$20 Suits and Overcoats \$15
Burk-Made Standard \$22.50
and \$23.50 Suits and Overcoats \$18

It's the quality of these clothes that commands your attention. They are hand-tailored goods by the best workmen, with best linings. They have distinction in style and are the very newest of late-season models. In immense variety of beautiful foreign and American weaves. These values should stir your bottom dollar—they're little short of wonderful.

Uncommon Clothes---THE STANDARD OF HIGH QUALITY---the Best Made

\$18 and \$20 Suits \$15
and \$22.50 and \$23.50 Suits and Overcoats \$18

The prices tell but part of the story---It's the quality of the Clothes that makes this opportunity so rare and remarkable. If you're wise you'll take advantage promptly.

BURK & CO.
MAIN AND EIGHTH STREETS

Elegant Holiday Gifts

Before making a selection of handsome gifts for the approaching holidays you are cordially invited to visit the store that deals exclusively in FINE DIAMONDS, SOLID GOLD WATCHES, SOLID GOLD AND PLATINUM JEWELRY, SOLID GOLD AND SILVER NOVELTIES, etc., where you will find the largest assortment of the latest and most unique designs, such as will not be found in other stocks.

This house has maintained this standard for more than forty years, and when quality is considered, their prices are the lowest.

The Nowlan Company

Leading Jewelers

921 East Main Street

Dreyfus

Specialists in Apparel For Women

Broad At Second St.